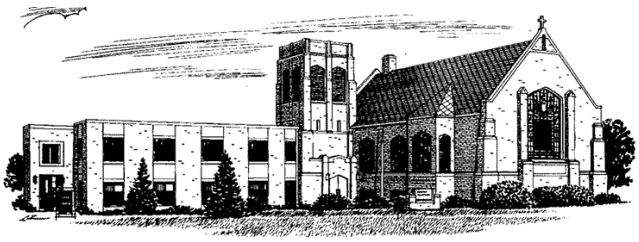


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (**beginning Memorial Day weekend**):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

June 2015

I am not a dancer. I wish I was, and I have lots of respect for those who do. The grace with which they move, the coordination, the strength. When I think of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I sometimes think of dancing. The Rev. Ted Loder puts it this way:

And, Lord,
teach me how to dance,
to turn around
and come down where I want to be,
in the arms and heart of your people
and in you,
that I may praise and enjoy you forever.
From *Touch Me with Truth that Burns Like Fire*
Guerrillas of Grace, Ted Loder

The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, brings us to the dance floor – with the power of God's love, when we are clumsy or graceful, faltering or energetic, and with the power of a mighty (and sometimes gentle) wind. It is the Holy Spirit that sets us among God's holy people, *joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

The dance continues…

Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing symbols!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
Psalm 150:4-6

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –
We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel and Eleanor Anderson** are at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman Stevensville.

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in June 2015

June 2 – Daniel Gustafson
Ann Dosch
3 - Steve Hall
4 – June Embree
5 – Judith Huff
Rebecca Schmidt
6 - Danielle Hohman
7 - Elinor Van Egmond
Nicholas Maly
11 - Tyler Cook
12 - Deborah Vollmer
Cynthia Schmidt
Stephania Ngonyani
15 - Hunter Zwar
16 - Marilyn Frey
18 - Rebeccah Strine
James Peterson
19 - Ken Ark
20 - Cami Ashley
22 - Larry Weber
Lanette Hohl-Mannisto
23 – Christopher Cox
24 – Marlene Schalon
Elizabeth Lundgren
26 – Philip Preston
27 – Bill Teal
29 – David Young
30 – Dena Nesbitt

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In June.

June 1 - Brian and Coanne Hohman
2 - Robert and Deanna Deaton
13 – Bruce and Linda Huff
14 –Gene and June Embree (62)
16 – David and Kathie Bradley
17 - Pastor Gary and Kathy Cowall
Pastor Joan and Jim Oleson
21 – Dan and Suzanne Fortenbacher
26 – Robert and Kirsten Gulley
Andrew and Joyce Marquardt
28 - James and Gayle Peterson
30 - William and Janet Oleson (52)

Please call the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

In Sympathy
We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of Dick Smart, husband of Mary, upon his death, April 22, in Florida. Dick's memorial service will be at Saron on Friday, June 19, at 11 a.m. The family will greet visitors beginning at 10 a.m.

God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1

New Members
On Sunday, May 17, we received the following new members at Saron – Susan Harris, Karen Hinckley, Amy Nelson, Corrine Ondraka, and Laura Stark. Welcome!!!

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday June 7
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Sunday June 14
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (12)
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Sunday June 21
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (29)
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Sunday June 28
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Graduating Seniors

We will offer a blessing to our graduating seniors on June 7.

Drew Huff is graduating on May 31st from Berrien Springs High School. Drew has been dual enrolled at Lake Michigan College for the past 2 years and will be entering College this fall with 32 hours of college credit. Drew has been accepted to Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan and plans to pursue a degree in psychology.

Connor Ashley is graduating from Lakeshore High School on May 31st. He plans to attend Wayne State University in the fall and major in political science. Connor, class president for all four years, is giving the "presidential address" at the commencement.

Graduating from Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI on May 2, 2015 were:

Juliet Jacob, Bachelor of Arts, Community Services; Stephania Ngonyani, Bachelor of Applied Science, Computer Information System Technology; and Pauline Ngonyani, Bachelor of Business Administration

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is planned for Monday – Thursday, August 3-6, 6:30-8:30 pm. Our theme is Animal Crackers! More details to come. Questions! Contact Jack Houser at 556.0377.

NEW Bible Study Opportunity

You are invited to join a monthly Bible study for both men and women on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm. This study, not meant for couples only, will meet in various homes and is followed by a light meal together. The group will meet on June 7 at 3:30 pm at the Kynast home, 4153 Courtney, St. Joseph. If you are interested, contact Bob or Mary Kynast (418.0148) or Cheryl and Jack Houser (556.0377).

Tuesday Mornings at the Beach

Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30, beginning May 26. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact Pastor

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will meet June 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

A portion of the Thursday morning Apocrypha study group. We made it through the entire book! We begin a new study in September.

1st Sunday Book Group

We are taking our summer break and will resume meeting again October 4, 2015. Following are the selections we have made for our 2015-2016 season

October 4, 2015 *The Husband's Secret, by Liane Moriarty*

November 1, 2015 *All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr*

December 6, 2015 *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin*

February 14, 2016 *(note change to 2nd Sunday) The Pearl That Broke It's Shell, by Nadia Hashimi*

March 6, 2016 *The Girl on the Train, by Paula Hawkins*

April 3, 2016 *What the Lady Wants; A Novel of Marshall Field and the Gilded Age, by Renee Rosen*

May 1, 2016 *My Salinger Year, by Joanna Rakoff*

Have a summer of good reads and remember; *The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the smarter you grow. The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice when speaking your mind or making your choice!*

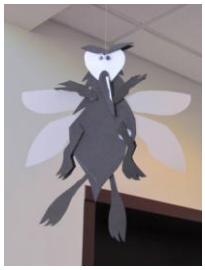
SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, Saron members and friends can take advantage of the beauty of Lake Michigan as a setting for informal summer worship. Once a month -- June 17, July 22, and August 12, all Wednesday nights -- we will gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6, followed by worship at 7. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are invited to bring a dish to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Outreach

Benton Harbor Area Schools S.M.A.R.T. Tutoring Program

The 2014-15 school year is quickly coming to an end! I would like to thank the members of Saron who participated in this weekly tutoring program - Jim Manore, Pastor Joan Oleson, David Bradley, Jan Stevens, and Mary Alice Brunner. One hour of "one on one" teaching DOES make a difference in the lives of the student and the mentor! After a relaxing summer, please consider participating in this Outreach opportunity in the Fall.



ELCA's World Malaria Sunday was held on Sunday ,April 26. Thank you to Rev. David Slater for sharing his experiences with Malaria victims in Africa. A special offering was taken to help support the ELCA's Malaria Campaign. The goal of the Campaign is to raise 15 million dollars by the end of 2015.

BLOOD DRIVE

Blood drive is June 18th, that is a Thursday. From 2:00-6:30pm Signup sheet is in the narthex . Thank you ,Keith Stevens and Joyce Marquardt

Meet me at the Freezer

Saron has meals available in the dining room freezer. Please take one to another member, friend or neighbor - anyone in need. A meal, hug, phone call or visit are all ways we can show God's love. Contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044 for more information.

CROP WALK MAY 17TH

Sunday, May 17, 2015 the 36th Annual Blossomland Crop Walk was held in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. Thanks to Keith Stevens, Jim Oleson, Brian and Mary Beth Culverhouse and Irma Gorman for helping at Saron's water station! Recruiters, walkers and rockers this year included:

Deanna and Bob Deaton, Laraine Taylor, Jan Stevens, Steve Bell and friend, as well as Elizabeth Kunkel. A huge thank you to all the folks who helped support the Crop Walk by making a pledge! In 2014, Saron raised $1,225.00 - 25% stays local, and is divided between 6 agencies. Soon we will have our totals for 2015 -REMEMBER - "Hunger Is No Game."

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions. Thank You. Keith Stevens, St. Joseph Twp Lions

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

If you are a student over the age of 13 and would like to help at the Soup Kitchen, please give me a call. Our summer dates are June, July and August Just a reminder – we are always in need of LARGE cans of fruit (any kind).
God's Work. Our Hands.
Thank you, Jan Stevens

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, June 10th, 2015 at the church to start rummage sale preparation. Deb Standen will be your hostess and offer devotions.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saron Church Women will be having a ***Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 13, 2015, from, 9:00-4:00 p.m.*** in the church dining room. Lots of items are needed for the sale – furniture, tools, books, toys, kitchen items, jewelry, clothing…you name it. Beginning May 25, items may be brought to the church and placed in the practice room, across from the new bathrooms. You may bring items in on Sundays and most mornings Monday through Thursday May 26 through June 10, but it would be best to call ahead during the week. Sign-up sheets will be available later in the narthex for working to set-up and to work the day of the sale. Thanks for your participation; it's much appreciated.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

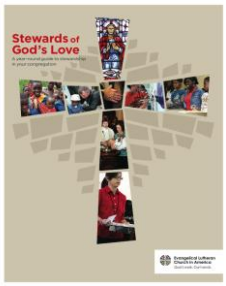
Blossomtime Fun at Saron!

Support

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37b-39



In December 2013, The Lutheran had an article titled, How can I keep from singing? It stated, "Singing is a gift from God. The Psalms command and invite it: 'O Sing to the Lord a new song' (98:1) 'Come into God's presence with singing' (100:2)….In a time when singing together is rarely expected, the church does a remarkable thing when it expects us to sing…When we leave worship service where the assembly sang well, we can't help but be uplifted. For most of us, church is the only place we get to sing on a regular basis. Paying attention to the health of our singing does a body good - the body of Christ." Pp14-15

Whether or not we ourselves sing or just sit and listen to others or just contemplate the words of the song, we thank God for the gift of song and pray we share the message of God's love it inspires in us.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave or Denise.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

Council News

Attendance Record	
04/26/2015	*96*
05/03/2015	*78*
05/10/2015	*94*
05/17/2015	*102*

Saron's Council Members – 2015

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Youth

WE'RE GOING TO DETROIT!

Saron's youth are heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. You can help us get there through one of our fundraisers!

POP CANS

Please save your returnable pop cans. They can be dropped off into the bin at the office door. Or, you can return your bottles and cans and bring in the receipt for the youth to redeem. Thank you!

Thanks ahead of time for your support! An ice cream social will be part of the festivities at the Beach Worship on July 22! Come, hear about our trip and enjoy some ice cream!

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren, Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, the church furnishes the mower and the gas. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.
"Thanks!" from the **Golden Hammers**

Thank you to all those who worked to clean the boards of the table and benches in our courtyard!

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Consider our synod's camping ministry.
http://www.elcalivingwater.com/

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out www.elca.org for news of our churchwide organization. You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran. There are stories, blogs, photos, and a feature called "Ask a Pastor.

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

SYNOD QUILT

Each congregation of our synod was asked to submit a quilt block to be used for a "traveling" quilt.

Thanks to Mary Alice Brunner who designed and make Saron's block. The completed quilt was on display at Synod Assembly.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR JUNE 2015

June 7 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Com.Assist: Mary Kynast
Acolyte: Austin Kamala
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Judi Huff
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

June 14 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader Intinction: Laurel Gacek
Acolytes: Jenna Henderson
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Hannah Strayhorn
Building Closing: Steve Bell

June 21 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Com. Assist: Marilyn Frey
Ushers: David and Patty Young
Acolyte: Brandon Burrow
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Ruth Stelling
Building Closing: Dennis and Colleen Lundgren

June 28 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Intinction: Dan Fortenbacher
Ushers: Andy and Joyce Marquardt
Acolyte: Colin and Aiden Ashley
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marlene Schalon
Building Closing: Ken Ark

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

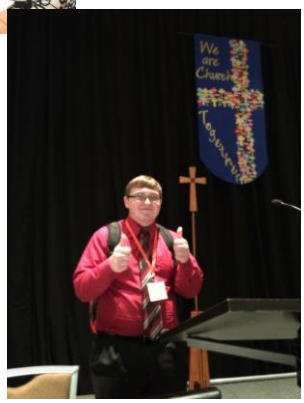
Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

JUNE 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Synod Assembly



June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	2 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	3 9:30am Golden Hammers	4	5	6 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
7 *Second Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion Recognition of Graduates 3:30 p.m. Bible Study at Kynast's home	8 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	9 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	10 9:30am Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle in the church Lounge. Rummage Sale set up	11	12	13 9:00am. –4:00 pm. Rummage Sale in the church dining room
14 *Third Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	15 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m Saron Council Meeting	16 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	17 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Picnic – at Lions Park with 7:00 p.m. Worship	18 2:00-6:30 pm Blood Drive	19 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Richard Smart	20
21 *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	22 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	23 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	24 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	25	26	27
28 *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	29 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	30 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park			MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31